

## Vitis

Celebrating The **small** business *Continued*

**Vitis paintings offer splash of color**

exposed brick and wooden beams. The restaurant is a veritable wine cellar with over 80 wines provided by the glass.

Although this is the first restaurant Dana has owned, she has worked in the business for several years. Giardina grew up around the industry. Her grandmother owned the hugely successful Depot in Napa Valley. In fact, Dana hopes to add her grandmother's famous pasta recipe, Malfatti (English translation: badly made) to her menu soon.

Dana Giardina wanted to own a business since college. Twenty years later she has seen that dream come to fruition with the May 4, 2004 opening of Vitis Entoteca on Northwest 16th. It took Giardina two months to find her location with passes on several other spots. The 2750-square-foot entoteca is located under the new Pearl Hardware; a fact that sometimes confuses walk-ins. Giardina says she frequently gets people looking to buy hammers. Renovation began in February to the space that was once a printing company. Now this chic wine bar boasts

Vitis serves all Italian fare. Giardina is always looking for interesting meals applicable to the small plate. The fresh tomatoes, peppers, basil, squash, zucchini and other vegetables are courtesy of her and friends' gardens.

Giardina received a grant from the city of Portland to help cover costs of opening. The city had set up a one-time grant of \$100,000 to be divided between new restaurants. She received the first grant of \$15,000. Giardina credits the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs ([www.oame.org](http://www.oame.org)) with also giving her a financial springboard. Her tenacity is seeking out funds as helped her realize her dream.

Vitis is open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. for dinner. Vitis is located at 535 NW 16th. Call 503.241.0355 for more information.



**Vitis chic wine cellar atmosphere**